

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 739

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Coach Bill Dupes upon his induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those highly successful coaches who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, provide exemplary motivation and train athletes to be good citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Coach Bill Dupes, who will be inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame on February 19, 2010, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the arena of sports as a coach whose career has spanned more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, Bill Dupes began his illustrious career in football in Sweetwater, Tennessee, where he served as team captain and star tailback and linebacker at Sweetwater High School from 1943 to 1947 and was selected All-East Tennessee and Honorable Mention All-State; and

WHEREAS, he played so brilliantly on the post-graduate Tennessee Military Institute team during the 1947-1948 season that he earned recognition on the All-Mid-South defensive team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dupes then took his considerable ability to Tennessee Technological University where he played fullback, offensive guard, and linebacker, starting for three years and serving with distinction as captain during his senior season; because of his extraordinary performance, he was chosen All-Ohio Valley Conference on defense and received Honorable Mention Little American in 1952; and

WHEREAS, in 1952 Coach Dupes began his memorable collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant and then an assistant coach at Tennessee Tech; during his tenure there,

Coach Dupes was instrumental in leading the the team to the Tangerine Bowl in 1953 and 1960, being crowned Co-Champions of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) in 1953 and 1959, and winning the OVC in 1955, 1960, and 1961; and

WHEREAS, while at Tennessee Tech, Coach Dupes also served admirably as coach of the successful track team, which won the Kentucky AAU meet in 1958, the Piedmont Relays in 1962, and never finished lower than second in the conference under his able guidance; and

WHEREAS, after a one-year stint at Millsaps College during the 1962-1963 season, Coach Dupes served as head football coach at Austin Peay, a memorable time for the Governors, as they reached number three in the nation in 1964, and Coach Dupes was named Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year; while Coach Dupes was at the helm, twelve of his Austin Peay players received Little All-American recognition, and three went on to play in the National Football League; and

WHEREAS, his notable service to Austin Peay was permanently commemorated when a former player gave \$100,000 to the University to establish the Bill Dupes Endowed Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dupes next served as Vice-President of Tennessee Military Institute in 1976 and returned to the sidelines as their high school coach for one season and served five more as their post-graduate coach; his enviable record in those five years included a 52-5 overall record, five All-Americans, and an incredible 200 players who signed college scholarships under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dupes then returned to his alma mater, Sweetwater High School, in 1983 for his longest and final head coaching position where he served ably until his retirement in 1998; during that last tenure, he led the "Cats" to consecutive TSSAA Class A State titles in 1971 and 1972, and to the 1993 TSSAA Class AA Championship before being named the Tennessee Class AA Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Coach Dupes has evidenced an unswerving commitment to excellence that has earned him many awards and decorations, including being inducted into the Tennessee Tech Hall of Fame in 1979, the Austin Peay

University Hall of Fame in 1999, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dupes's coaching skills have earned him more than 300 wins throughout his illustrious career, garnering him the admiration of football fans throughout the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Coach Bill Dupes in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, commend him for his substantial legacy as an all-star football player and coach, applaud him for his vaunted level of success and his dedication to excellence, and offer our deep appreciation for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.